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REIMAGININGS

A PUBLICATION FOR SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES ALUMNI

SUMMER 2021

Kathleen Garness (SCPS '89)
discusses the fine arts of
learning and living her
dream. See page 6.



Our Call to Serve

Undoubtedly, this has been a year wrought with grief and challenges. Members of our community and society have dealt with unfathomable realities, yet demonstrated great faith and resilience. For some, fortitude did not come easily (we pass no judgments) and supported others by giving them the time and space that they need to grieve or heal. We are an accepting community and will continue to foster environments that are conducive to supporting individuals in meaningful and authentic ways with compassion and care.

Through the challenges, we continue to maintain a permeating sense of duty. We remain focused on helping those in need while transforming previous norms into new realities. We have upheld an impressive student experience and a thriving academic environment. This issue includes a few narratives of the SCPS adult learner experience and school accomplishments. Here are a few additional successes:

- In undergraduate programs, we launched the Bachelor of Arts in Recreation and Sport Management, established a transfer-student relationship with College of Lake County and added multiple new courses in business administration and entrepreneurship;
- This year, approximately 40% of our graduating students received credit for prior learning;
- We launched the free "Learn for Life" webinar series, which was created to extend learning to a broad audience;
- The DePaul University Labor Education Center launched the "College Fellowship for Worker Justice" aimed at educating and engaging young workers about the labor movement, rights, and leadership;



- As part of the SCPS LeadUp Initiative, the school increased its slate of new offerings by 10% for this academic year;
- During the 24-hour DePaul Blue Demon Challenge, we received 83 individual gifts, unlocking both challenge matches; and
- The SCPS Advisory Board established the Tecora Rogers Harper Endowed Scholarship to support students with strong academic standing and professional or community impact.

We are proud of these accomplishments, but we still ask, "What must be done?" I encourage you to share news of your experiences, success stories and special mentions. Recommendations and feedback will help us to remain engaged with evolving interests. You may share your feedback at SCPSDeansOffice@depaul.edu.

Be well, stay healthy and continue to make your mark on the world.

Reminder to BA with an Individualized Focus Area (BAIFA) students: The School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SCPS) competence-based degree programs are being retired at the end of spring quarter 2023. Please feel free to contact scpsbaifa@depaul.edu with questions or concerns.

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Faculty Spotlight

[Caroline Kiesel](#), associate professor and director of the Center to Advance Education for Adults, made headlines recently with the publication of her [op-ed](#) in the Washington Post arguing that loopholes in the 13th amendment continue to preserve slavery. Kiesel is a fellow of [DePaul's OpEd Project](#).

SCPS Associate Professor [Don Opitz \(LAS '91\)](#) secured a contract with Routledge as general co-editor for a five-volume series tentatively titled "Gender, Colonialism, and Science: A Cross-Cultural Compendium of Primary Sources, 1750–1950." The estimated publication year is 2024.



Caroline Kiesel



Don Opitz

Prior Learning Approved

SCPS has made continuing one's education at DePaul even more accessible. With so many professional certificates and programs in the marketplace, SCPS regularly reviews and updates its preapproved prior learning assessments (PLAs) to accommodate students while maintaining DePaul's rigorous academic standards. Newly added certificates include the State of Illinois Nursing Assistant certificate, as well as certificates for both the Six Sigma green and black belts from DePaul's Continuing and Professional Education unit.

"SCPS offers multiple avenues where students' prior learning has the potential to be approved for college-level credit. These avenues include certain professional certifications and licenses, as well as opportunities for students who have experiences that are not captured within a license or certificate. Through PLA projects, students are given the chance to make the case for their learning. This is the most flexible and robust process for PLAs," says SCPS Associate Professor Joseph Chen, who directs the Office of Prior Learning Assessment. View the growing number of preapproved prior learning assessments [here](#) and SCPS's continuing education courses [here](#).

Exciting New Workshops Offered

An assortment of exciting and timely continuing and professional education workshops are underway at SCPS. One is a telehealth training for psychologists and social workers offered in partnership with William "Marty" Martin, professor of management and director of the Master of Science in Human Resources program; Orson Morrison, director of DePaul Family and Community Services; and Christina Warner-Metzger, director of the Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) program of DePaul's Family and Community Services.

Another series of workshops focused on diversity, equity and inclusion will be led by [Lu Rocha](#), a bilingual trauma therapist and founder of Multicultural Consulting Services. For more information, contact SCPS Assistant Dean [Hap Bryant](#).



Lu Rocha

Scholarships

SCPS continues to make accessibility a priority. In the 2020–21 academic year, nearly 60% of applicants with demonstrated financial need received a scholarship. This includes more than \$100,000 given to students from donor-funded scholarships.

"SCPS empowers diverse adult learners. We partner with them to discover a renewed sense of purpose and commit to lifelong learning," says SCPS Dean Tatum Thomas. "Adult learners have mastered the art of addressing multiple obligations, while attending to their educational and professional goals. We strive to mitigate adult-specific barriers to degree attainment. The generous support of many alumni and friends helps lessen financial barriers to pursuing a DePaul education."

To give to the SCPS scholarship fund, go to give.depaul.edu and choose the fund under "View all giving opportunities."


 A photograph of a man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark jacket and a patterned scarf, playing a oud. He is in a studio setting with various musical equipment visible in the background.

The Power of Lifelong Learning

Alumni invest in their future by continuing their education at DePaul

Photo by Arian Wright

Ronnie Malley

Each adult learner comes to SCPS for unique reasons, yet the SCPS experience—including a commitment to academic excellence and the professional tools and competitive edge it provides—is delivered to all its students.

“By the time they come to SCPS, our students have already lived and accomplished so much,” says SCPS Dean Tatum Thomas. “With a degree from SCPS, adult students are given the opportunity to amplify their knowledge and skills, leading to exponential impact.”

Leslie Andrews (SCPS '01) was already accomplishing great things by the time she sought out SCPS, then the School for New Learning. She had begun work at a leisure travel agency directly after high school, and over the next two decades rose up the ladder to coveted managerial jobs at American Express Travel, and later to her current role as global category leader at Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL).

Andrews knew that a college degree was essential to continue her climb to the top of the industry. She chose DePaul because “I appreciated the concept of going to school with other adults who were also accomplished.

For years, Andrews took classes at night, while working her intense corporate day job. “I took my time because I was busy,” she says of a career that regularly took her to Singapore and Europe, and which recently earned her recognition as one of the Top 50 Women in Travel by the Global Business Travel Association. She remarks,

“I had the most fantastic experiential learning experiences at SCPS.”

The experience of life

When **Ronnie Malley (SCPS '17)** was 17, college was not in the stars. “It was a tumultuous time, and I could not focus on college,” says Malley, who had dutifully enrolled in a local community college after high school but didn’t stick with it.

During his childhood in a Palestinian American family on the Southwest Side of Chicago, music was a mainstay. From young adulthood, he was playing in a host of bands, performing everything from rock to Middle Eastern music. He was also recording music on the side, but he didn’t think of this as a career. “There was always this underlying notion that ‘It’s great you do music, kid, but you’ve got to get a real job,’” he says, which is exactly what he did. A quick learner and a skilled salesperson, Malley worked in retail, banking and real estate while devoting himself to music on the side. Always an autodidact, he enthusiastically read technical manuals the way others read novels.

A stint in France, where he successfully supported himself teaching music lessons, gave Malley the confidence to consider music as a viable career. “I thought life is too short to waste it trying to get just a job. It was time for me to do something I really love,” he says. Malley started teaching and lecturing about

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—Gloria Batey (SCPS '99, MA '15)

music when he returned to Chicago. In 2007, he also launched his own production company, [Intercultural Music Production](#). A few years later, Malley decided the time was right for college. He enrolled in SCPS, where he created his own degree in global music studies. Not only did SCPS allow Malley to take his unique life experiences and codify them, but what he learned in the classroom also directly affected his business. "The company truly expanded when I applied my learning from DePaul to our programs," he says.

The curriculum of life

Like Malley, Gloria Batey (SCPS '99, MA '15) appreciated that SCPS allows students to "build our own curriculum around our life."

Coming to DePaul 20 years after she graduated from Chicago's Kenwood Academy, she was able to leverage her professional and lived experiences at SCPS.

Batey had been working in accounts payable and collections while taking the occasional college course. When her employer at the time offered 100% tuition reimbursement, Batey decided to commit to completing a bachelor's degree in instructional design. Her degree propelled her into the adult learning, development and consulting sphere for companies such as Northern Trust and LexisNexis.

The experience gave Batey a thirst for knowledge. Soon after earning her BA, she decided to earn a master's from SCPS. "I wanted to deepen my mastery of adult learning and evaluation skills, which is what attracted me to the MAEA program," she says, referring to the [Master of Arts in Educating Adults](#) program.

Today, Batey is a program manager of enterprise resource planning change management in the Department of Innovation and Technology of the State of Illinois.

She also recently launched her own nonprofit, BELTS ED, which specializes in workforce preparedness for minority and underserved communities. Its pilot project, [Hood to Hire](#) (H2H), gives unemployed and underemployed minority youths and displaced workers skills training to position them for career growth.



Gloria Batey



Photo by Regan Scott Photography

Leslie Andrews

"My life's work has been around training in a corporate arena, and after a tremendous amount of work and love, I am using my skills to create a program to give the underserved the best education to develop their own workplace skills. I'm hoping that I can make a difference in their lives," she says.

Paying it forward

Andrews, Malley and Batey invested in their own futures by continuing their education at DePaul. SCPS fit their lifestyle and place in life, enhancing their successful careers and helping them create a new path for themselves.

Andrews has even gotten involved with SCPS as an alumna in activities such as building curriculum, guest lecturing and serving as the lead learning coach for the [Adult Men of Color Initiative](#). "SCPS gives you an experience like no other," she says, "and it has led to all of these other opportunities and experiences that have made an impact on my life."

Planting an Artistic Career

With help from SCPS, alumna Kathleen Garness pursued her passion for art



Gutter

When **Kathleen Garness (SCPS '89)** graduated from high school in the 1960s, she was given a very strong message. "I was told I wasn't college material," recalls Garness. "The message was 'You're a girl. You're going to get married. So why do you want to even go to college, because college is going to be wasted on you?'"

Garness took the message to heart and took an office job. But "it was soul-deadening," she says. Artistically inclined, she happened upon the Palette & Chisel Academy of Fine Arts located in Chicago's Gold Coast neighborhood. Soon, Garness was a regular, and by the mid-1980s, she became the organization's board president.

Through a friend from church named Jean Knoll, a faculty member at DePaul, she found out about the School for New Learning (now SCPS). Garness began taking one or two classes a quarter while working as a commercial artist and caring for an infant as a solo parent. Garness did not have the luxury of enrolling full time.

"I soldiered through to my degree," she says. "I loved all the classes, and I credit DePaul with accepting me as an artist and helping me see who I really am. Since all the instructors were working in their field, it also opened me to possibilities."

When Garness graduated, she strode across the stage with her toddler son on her hip. This woman, deemed not "college material" by society, later went on to earn a master's in religious education from Loyola University Chicago.

But Garness never abandoned art. She continued taking art classes and earned a botanical art certificate from the Morton Arboretum. She began teaching art and exhibiting her paintings. Soon Garness' work as a scientific illustrator and botanical artist took off.

Today, Garness is a research associate for the Morton Arboretum and a scientific affiliate of the Field Museum, for which she develops botanical guides. Her painting of a yellow lady slipper has hung in the National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. She also volunteers as a steward at nature preserves.

Garness is finally able to devote herself wholly to her art. Working from her home in Forest Park, Ill., she creates most of her drawings digitally, though she also works in watercolors and paints. Recent projects include illustrating the glossary "Flora of the Chicago Region" and a guide to the ferns of the Chicago region, a joint project with botanists Gerould S. Wilhelm and Robbin Moran.

"I remember walking with my mom in the Buena Park neighborhood in Chicago when I was three years old. It was very urban, but we saw this little yellow oxalis with these bright yellow cloverlike leaves growing up between a sidewalk crack. Even at that young age, I was really taken by the power of this plant to grow up through the sidewalk," says Garness.

"Witnessing its resilience was so moving, and I think it is a metaphor. When I look at my own life, I see my resilience and the way I have come full circle."



Arieahn Matamonasa views leadership through cross-cultural and cross-species perspectives.

Scholarly Pursuits

An SCPS student finds her place among the college's faculty

When **Arieahn Matamonasa (SCPS '98)** discovered DePaul's School for New Learning (SNL, now SCPS), she found her home.

"SNL allowed me to develop my ideas and combine different interests into a focus area. While there, I met the most amazing mentors who really shaped me as a student, academic and thinker," says Matamonasa.

Indeed, SCPS has been Matamonasa's intellectual home for more than two decades. After earning her bachelor's degree in 1998, she earned a master's and PhD in clinical psychology from Fielding Graduate University in California before making her way back to DePaul, where she teaches as an associate professor and serves as the school's associate dean.

She has published widely and taught in a number of multidisciplinary research areas, including cross-cultural, ethnic minority and Indigenous psychology; women's psychology; and the history, science and psychology of human-animal relationships.

Matamonasa has also pursued another subject that is close to her heart: the human-animal bond. Always a horse lover, since 2006 she has practiced and researched equine-assisted psychotherapy with children and adolescents. She was able to bring this experience to her students at DePaul through an externship course, *The Power and Wisdom of Horses*, with field trips to a stable. "This was a fantastic course to teach.

Being in nature, being with large animals, being in a really different setting is a learning and growth experience even for adult students," she says.

Matamonasa is grateful that SCPS gives faculty the flexibility to design unique courses around their areas of expertise. Another course that she taught in the Fraternal Order of Police cohort program was *Understanding Science and the Human Condition*, which introduces police officers to mental health issues in the communities they serve, as well as the importance of monitoring their own mental health.

With over two dozen authored courses to her credit, Matamonasa never forgets her own experience as an adult learner. "Sometimes we forget how intimidating it can be to come back to school, and how much pressure adults have in their lives. We need to continually inspire and enchant our adult students," she says.

Moving forward, Matamonasa is interested in studying the healing power of our relationship with animals, nature and the ancestral wisdom of earth-based cultures.

An excursion to Mongolia two summers ago only deepened her commitment to the human-nature connection. The monthlong trip on horseback involved working with the world's oldest shamanic culture.

"I became interested in the roles of a master herder as it applies to leadership. Looking at leadership from that very deep, cross-cultural and cross-species perspective will be an important addition to the scholarly area," she says.

As for the future, Matamonasa has not forgotten about teaching.

"I'm currently in an administrative leadership role, which I'm really enjoying. But I don't want to lose sight of the teaching, because that's really where my heart is," she says.

SAVE *the* DATE

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